



The Republican Party of Wisconsin

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Elections and
Campaign Reform

FROM: Republican Party of Wisconsin Chairman Reince Priebus

DATE: September 15, 2009

RE: 2009 Assembly Bill 406, relating to challenging the ballots of
electors at polling places

Reince Priebus
Chairman

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Thank you for accepting this written testimony concerning Assembly Bill 406, which is before the committee today. The Republican Party of Wisconsin is submitting testimony and registering against this legislation because we believe it may have the potential to decrease accountability and compromise integrity of elections in this state.

Challenging ballots of electors who may not be eligible to vote is not only an important responsibility but it is the duty of those who desire to keep elections fair and honest. Limiting those who may challenge these ballots to persons residing in the same ward of the elector would be dismissing the importance of each vote in statewide elections. With election outcomes that have a significant impact statewide, it seems unnecessary and unfair to limit the rights of those who have a legitimate concern with the eligibility of an elector's vote, whether they live across the street, across town, or across the state from the elector.

Additionally, seeing as no residency requirement for persons circulating nomination papers for candidates currently exists, it would seem inconsistent to modify current law to require election challengers to reside in the ward of the elector.

Further, requiring election observers to present proof of residence and identification seems unjustifiable when electors themselves are not required to provide such documentation at polling places. Requiring photo identification of voters should be our first priority as we modify election laws to increase accessibility, while, at the same time, eliminating cases of voter fraud that cast a shadow over elections in municipalities across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important legislation. Should you have any further questions or concerns regarding the Republican Party of Wisconsin's position on this or any other legislation pending in the legislature, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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